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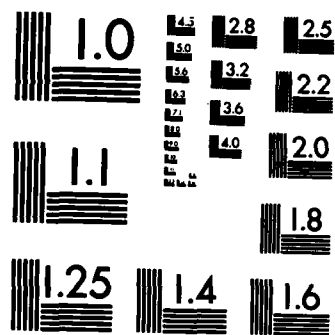
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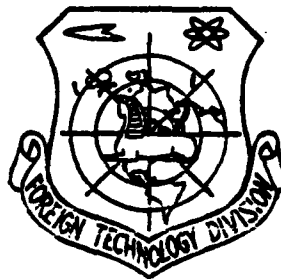
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PREPARED BY:

TRANSLATION DIVISION
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
WP.AFB, OHIO.

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THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE PLANNING CONFERENCE*

Author unknown

The Ministry of Education and the Chinese Social Science Institute held a combined national educational sciences planning meeting from March 23 to April 13 in Beijing. This is the first such large scale meeting in thirty years since the establishment of our country. This is a mobilization meeting towards educational sciences.

The conference believed that, in order to upgrade our educational institutes, we have to grasp the objective regularities of education. We must expand our studies on educational sciences and increase the importance and urgency of promoting educational science studies to give educational science study its deserving status. It is believed that, to implement the four modernizations, scientific technology is the key and education is the basis. Whether education is successful or not will not only affect the future of a country but also concern every family. Presently, there are college, high school, and elementary school students of over two hundred and ten million people. There are also over ten million faculty and staff members. Due to the interference and destruction of the "Gang of Four" such as Lin Biao, our education system was seriously damaged. The present status of our educational work is not suited for the objective requirements of socialist modernization construction. In the recent decade, our educational science studies were interrupted. Institutes were abolished; people were laid off. Many officials and teachers never learned education theories and do not know anything about

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educational sciences. Even common knowledge such as how to act as a principal, how to arrange the teaching of various subjects, and how to act as the class president was not known to these people. If such problems are not solved, it will be difficult to be successful with education work. The delegates attending the meeting vigorously urged that "we must start to expand the educational science studies at full strength in order to eliminate the "science blind" of educational science from the educational works in the country. The officials and the vast number of teachers at various levels of education must learn educational sciences in order to master the objective laws of educational work. We must turn laymen into professionals. The large number of workers in educational theory must write educational knowledge and parental reading materials in common language as soon as possible in order to popularize the educational science knowledge and to improve the standard of educational science studies.

During the conference, the delegates discussed and finalized the national "educational sciences development plan" (draft) according to the strategic decision of the party to shift the emphasis to socialism modernization construction. They presented the initial concepts for establishing an educational sciences study base. It is believed that the basic mission of education sciences study is to combine the common principles of Marxism, Leninism, and Mao Tse-tung's thoughts with the actual realization of the socialist people's education. We should carry out scientific studies and explorations on the major problems of our educational work. We should carry out theoretical summarization and generalization with regard to the abundant practical experience, so that we can understand and master the objective rules of educational work. It will provide a reliable theoretical basis for the formulation of educational directions, policies, improved educational system, and teaching materials and methods by the Party and the country, as well as the realization of modernization of teaching methods. It is used to guide and promote the development of educational enterprises and the improvement of the quality of education to

greatly raise the cultural and scientific level of the entire Chinese population. It will cultivate thousands and thousands of specialists to serve in the construction of the country. It is also believed that, in order to develop and further the study of education sciences in our country, we must liberate our thoughts, start the machinery, promote democracy, and be practical. We must dare to study new situations, solve new problems, summarize new experience, and develop educational science theories. We not only must be able to succeed critically, but also dare to continuously create new things. We must also seriously execute the double hundred guidelines, carry on academic freedom, allow free debate and discussion, promote various education revolutionary experiments, and encourage comparative studies to develop our educational sciences in our country.

During the meeting, the Vice Dean of the Chinese Social Sciences Institute, Yu Guang-yuan, the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education Zhang Cheng-xian and Dong Chun-cai spoke in the conference. The Minister of Education, Jiang Nai-xiang, met with the members and the chairmen and attended the closing ceremony.

In his speech, Zhang Cheng-Xian represented the Ministry of Education to thoroughly reverse the "criticism on psychology" problem and the criticism on "education based on motherly love". He said that it was a complete mistake to have the "psychology criticism movement" which covered the entire country to attack psychology as a "pseudoscience" and to treat some psychologists as pulling the "white flags" which led to the criticism of some comrades. Psychology is a subject which must be learned and mastered by the workers in education. That criticism was not sound theoretically. Especially, it lies at the boundary between academic problems and political problems which led to the abuse of academic freedom and destruction of the policies of party

officials and the intellectuals. It must be totally reversed and we should try to restore the reputation of those comrades involved and criticized. The national criticism on the so-called "education by motherly love" which was represented by the famous model teacher comrade Si-xia was also a mistake. For teachers to love and protect students is absolutely proper and correct. Using "motherly love" of the capitalist for criticism was misleading. It created very broad consequences in the education circle and must be thoroughly reversed. Zhang Chen-xian stressed that we had to overcome the serious deterioration of education caused by destruction due to the interference by the "Gang of Four" of Lin Biao's using the presently available manpower, materials, and financial conditions to improve the quality of education at full strength. He asked the educational science workers to work hard to make the educational science institutes really become the advisory agency of leading education work to obtain fruitful educational science study results and to write some high quality, problem-solving academic papers to contribute to the four modernizations.

There were over two hundred and sixty educational experts, scholars, good teachers, school leading officials, and the responsible comrades of school administrations from various providences, cities, and self-ruling zones attending this conference. In the meeting, many delegates presented many good suggestions and ideas with respect to the present educational work and the educational science activities currently underway. The delegates also carried out academic exchanges of educational sciences and discussions on working experience. During the meeting, an academic scientific study group for the people was established by election — the Chinese Education Society.

(Communication of Xinhua News Agency, April 24 <<Guang Ming Daily>>).

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